

Utah State Board of Education Strategic Directions for 2005-2009

June 1, 2006

1. Expect High Performance of All Students

Actions:

- a. Refine the U-PASS testing and accountability system.
- b. Review and monitor student achievement results.
- c. Establish an accurate process for reporting dropout data in disaggregated forms.
- d. Increase graduation requirements in a way that helps every student.
- e. Reduce test turnaround time.
- f. Improve the college-readiness of all students.

2. Increase Achievement of Students with Learning Challenges

Actions:

- a. Implement a policy that could include using financial leverage to close the achievement gap.
- b. Identify and promote research-based ELL strategies.
- c. Identify and promote research-based gifted and talented strategies.
- d. Improve diagnosis, placement, assessment, training, instruction and testing procedures to students with learning challenges.
- e. Bring all current ESL training programs up to agency ESL endorsement standards.

3. Focus on Standards-Based (Competency) Education

Actions:

- a. Ensure that standards, ongoing assessment, including pre- and post-assessment, and competency-based evaluation are implemented in all Utah classrooms.
- b. Analyze standards, practices and policies of schools with low performance.
- c. Implement the 4-6 Math Initiative.
- d. Continue to advance K-3 Reading.
- e. Advocate for optional full-day kindergarten primarily for at risk students.
- f. Increase ties with preschool providers through curriculum, assessments and standards.
- g. Promote research-proven character education/school environment programs that ensure results.
- h. Encourage rigorous electronic choices for high school students.

4. Ensure Quality Teachers, Staff and Administrators

Actions:

- a. Implement the Educator Quality Initiative with emphasis on anticipating teacher shortages and on hiring qualified ethnic minority educators.
- b. Reduce the costs of licensure and highly qualified educator reviews while monitoring high certification standards.
- c. Institutionalize a clear understanding of ethical behavior for all educators.
- d. Implement the Life Skills Guide in professional development.
- e. Develop an administrative recruiting and retention program that promotes quality leadership and supervision.

5. Build Partnerships with Family, Community, Industry and Higher Education

Actions:

- a. Streamline/facilitate access to postsecondary education for Utah graduates.
- b. Align graduation requirements and assessments with postsecondary education.
- c. Seek communication to and from parents, community, ethnic minorities, educational institutions and leaders of industry.
- d. Strengthen the PreK-16 Alliance.
- e. Strengthen concurrent enrollment through joint advocacy that ensures consistency, rigor, and increased resources as enrollments and costs increase.
- f. Prepare a State Report Card that is easily read, accurate, and helpful to stakeholders.
- g. Communicate with the public about the value of their public schools, emphasizing (in 2006) the importance of daily, on-time attendance by students.
- h. Develop quality relationships with legislators and the Governor.

6. Ensure Safe Schools and Promote Healthy Students

Actions:

- a. Strengthen policies related to safe, happy, and drug-free schools, including the prevention of bullying.
- b. Promote child health and nutrition.
- c. Prepare schools for potential pandemic flu outbreak.

7. Derive the Maximum Value from Education Resources

Actions:

- a. Implement the statewide building resources management system.
- b. Submit a budget strategy to reduce the turnover in state office personnel and attract high quality and diverse educators.
- c. Maximize and align current resources of time, money, personnel, space and technology to meet the current goals of the Board of Education.
- d. Secure funding for an additional auditor at the Utah State Office of Education.